

Peter Causton

Let's get Mediation Done!

My background

I am a civil and commercial mediator and council member of the Law Society. I set up ProMediate and we are the holders of the Personal Injury Awards 2019 Mediation Achiever of the Year Award 2019, which we won because of our commitment to diversity. ProMediate runs the Manchester Mediation Pilot and I am on the CJC Judicial Liaison Committee.

Are you tired of endless discussions about promoting or encouraging mediation going round and round in circles! If so you need someone on the board of the CMC who gets things done rather than just talking about it. We need "opt out" mediation in the Court system now, as opt in has failed. It's time for the government to recognise the benefits of mediation and to incorporate it as part of the Court system, changing the litigation culture, giving people a real opportunity to use ADR rather than just litigation. We all know that when people try mediation, they become converts. We also know that litigation can be ruinously expensive. In the workplace, grievance procedures can be damaging and make disputes worse. The very word "grievance" encourages disputes rather than resolution. We have all read the litigation horror stories about angry neighbours bankrupting each other over an inch of land. ADR in consumer cases can help retain customers.

My ideas are:

- To expand the Mediation Pilot to every Court, allowing parties to use the Court facilities and empty conference rooms for mediation, free of charge. They are public buildings and the facilities are underused.
- To promote workplace mediation and for it to be incorporated as a first step in the standard recommended grievance procedure which should be renamed "dispute resolution procedure"
- To improve the member benefits provided by the CMC.. I headed up a members' benefits subcommittee recently looking at what could be done to increase value for money. The CMC should be looking at improving the directory, increasing PR output and profile raising and other ideas such as discounted accommodation, precedents and online facilities could be considered.
- To continue my work with the CJC Judicial liaison committee and to press for the implementation of the CJC report that is now over a year old.
- If elected I would get things done and try to increase diversity in the mediation profession as well as encouraging new mediators to develop their mediation practice. Together, let's get mediation done!

Vote for me and together we can get mediation done!